<u>AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS</u>:

Please amend Claims 1, 3 through 6, 8 through 10, 12 through 14, 16, and 17 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A recording apparatus comprising:

input means for inputting a high definition image signal and a standard definition image signal;

encoding means for encoding the high definition image signal input by said input means by a first encoding method to output high definition encoded image data, and encoding the standard definition image signal input by said input means by a second encoding method different from the first encoding method to output standard definition encoded image data;

sync data generating means for generating sync data for the high definition image signal and sync data for the standard definition image signal, the sync data for the standard definition image signal having a different sync pattern from the sync data for the high definition image signal <u>so that the encoding method of an image signal recorded on a recording medium is discriminated by the sync data</u>;

mode setting means for setting one of a high definition image recording mode in which the high definition image signal input by said input means is recorded and a standard definition image recording mode in which the standard definition image signal input by said input means is recorded;

control means for controlling said sync data generating means in accordance with the recording mode set by said mode setting means so as to generate the sync data for the high

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definition image signal in the high definition image recording mode and to generate the sync data for the standard definition image signal in the standard definition image recording mode; and

recording means for forming a plurality of sync blocks by adding the sync data for the high definition image signal <u>and ID data for discriminating each of the plurality of sync blocks</u> to each of a predetermined amount of the high definition encoded image data and recording an encoded data stream constructed by ~~said~~ <u>the</u> plurality of sync blocks of the high definition encoded image data onto the recording medium in the high definition image recording mode, and for forming a plurality of sync blocks by adding the sync data for the standard definition image signal <u>and the ID data</u> to each of a predetermined amount of the standard definition encoded image data and recording an encoded data stream constructed by ~~said~~ <u>the</u> plurality of sync blocks of the standard definition encoded image data onto the recording medium in the standard definition image recording mode.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein ~~said~~ <u>the</u> first encoding method is an MP@HL method or an MP@H-14 method in an MPEG encoding system and ~~said~~ <u>the</u> second encoding method is a DV format method specified by the HD Digital VCR Council.

4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

reproducing means for reproducing the encoded data stream from ~~said~~ <u>the</u> recording medium;

decoding means for decoding the high definition encoded image data and the standard definition encoded image data in the encoded data stream reproduced by said reproducing means;

sync data detecting means for detecting ~~said~~ the sync data from a plurality of sync blocks in the encoded data stream reproduced by said reproducing means and discriminating the encoding method of the encoded image data in the encoded data stream reproduced by said reproducing means on the basis of the sync pattern of the detected sync data; and

control means for controlling said decoding means on the basis of the encoding method discriminated by said sync data detecting means.

5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein ~~said~~ the recording medium is a magnetic tape.

6. (Currently Amended) A reproducing apparatus comprising:

reproducing means for reproducing from a recording medium an encoded data stream constructed by a plurality of sync blocks each including encoded image data encoded by a first encoding method or a second encoding method different from the first encoded method, ID data for discriminating each of the plurality of sync blocks, and sync data having different sync patterns according to the encoding method of the encoded image data;

decoding means for decoding, by a decoding method corresponding to the first encoding method or the second encoding method, the encoded image data in the encoded data stream reproduced by said reproducing means;

sync data detecting means for detecting sync data from a plurality of sync blocks in the encoded data stream reproduced by said reproducing means and discriminating the encoding

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method of the encoded image data in the encoded data stream reproduced by said reproducing means on the basis of the sync pattern of the detected sync data; and

control means for controlling said decoding means so as to decode the encoded image data corresponding to the encoding method discriminated by said sync data detecting means.

7. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the first encoding method comprises a high quality encoding method of encoding a video signal of high quality and the second encoding method comprises a standard quality encoding method of encoding a video signal of standard quality.

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein ~~said~~ the first encoding method is an MP@HL method or an MP@H-14 method in an MPEG encoding system and ~~said~~ the second encoding method is a DV format method specified by the HD Digital VCR Council.

9. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein ~~said~~ the recording medium is a magnetic tape.

10. (Currently Amended) A recording method comprising:

an input step of inputting a high definition image signal and a standard definition image signal;

an encoding step of encoding the high definition image signal input in said input step by a first encoding method to output high definition encoded image data, and encoding the standard

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definition image signal input in said input step by a second encoding method different from the first encoding method to output standard definition encoded image data;

a sync data generating step of generating sync data for the high definition image signal and sync data for the standard definition image signal, the sync data for the standard definition image signal having a different sync pattern from the sync data for the high definition image signal so that the encoding method of an image signal recorded on a recording medium is discriminated by the sync data;

a mode setting step of setting one of a high definition image recording mode in which the high definition image signal input in said input step is recorded and a standard definition image recording mode in which the standard definition image signal input in said input step is recorded;

a control step of controlling said sync data generating step in accordance with the recording mode set by said mode setting means so as to generate the sync data for the high definition image signal in the high definition image recording mode and to generate the sync data for the standard definition image signal in the standard definition image recording mode; and

a recording step of forming a plurality of sync blocks by adding the sync data for the high definition image signal and ID data for discriminating each of the plurality of sync blocks to each of a predetermined amount of the high definition encoded image data and recording an encoded data stream constructed by ~~said~~ the plurality of sync blocks of the high definition encoded image data onto the recording medium in the high definition image recording mode, and for forming a plurality of sync blocks by adding the sync data for the standard definition image signal and the ID data to each of a predetermined amount of the standard definition

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encoded image data and recording an encoded data stream constructed by ~~said~~ the plurality of sync blocks of the standard definition encoded image data onto the recording medium in the standard definition image recording mode.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 10, wherein ~~said~~ the first encoding method is an MP@HL method or an MP@H-14 method in an MPEG encoding system and ~~said~~ the second encoding method is a DV format method specified by the HD Digital VCR Council.

13. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 10, wherein ~~said~~ the recording medium is a magnetic tape.

14. (Currently Amended) A reproducing method comprising:

a reproducing step of reproducing from a recording medium an encoded data stream constructed by a plurality of sync blocks each including encoded image data encoded by a first encoding method or a second encoding method different from the first ~~encoded~~ encoding method, ID data for discriminating each of the plurality of sync blocks, and sync data having different sync patterns according to the encoding method of the encoded image data;

a sync data detecting step of detecting sync data from a plurality of sync blocks in the encoded data stream reproduced in said reproducing step and discriminating an encoding

method of the encoded image data in the encoded data stream reproduced in said reproducing step on the basis of the sync pattern of the detected sync data; and

a decoding step of decoding the encoded image data corresponding to the encoding method detected in said sync data detecting step.

15. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 14, wherein the first encoding method comprises at least one of a high quality encoding method of encoding a video signal of high quality and the second encoding method comprises a standard quality encoding method of encoding a video signal of standard quality.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~An apparatus~~ A method according to claim ~~10~~ 15, wherein ~~said~~ the first encoding method is an MP@HL method or an MP@H-14 method in an MPEG encoding system and ~~said~~ the second encoding method is a DV format method specified by the HD Digital VCR Council.

17. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 14, wherein ~~said~~ the recording medium is a magnetic tape.